IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-21 (canceled).

22. (new) An intervertebral spacer device comprising:

a first plate having an inner surface and an outer surface adapted to engage a first vertebral body;

a second plate having an inner surface that faces the inner surface of said first plate and an outer surface adapted to engage a second vertebral body;

at least one arched strip spring disposed between the inner surfaces of said first and second plates, said at least one arched strip spring having lateral ends and a peak located between the lateral ends, wherein the lateral ends of said at least one arched strip spring are attached to said second plate and the peak of said arched strip spring is attached to said first plate.

23. (new) The intervertebral spacer device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the peak of said at least one arched strip spring is in contact with the inner surface of said first plate.

24. (new) The intervertebral spacer device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the lateral ends of said at least one arched strip spring are attached to the inner surface of said second plate and the peak of said at least one arched strip spring in attached to the inner surface of said first plate.

25. (new) The intervertebral spacer device as claimed in claim 22, wherein said at least one arched strip spring comprises a plurality of arched strip springs.

26. (new) The intervertebral spacer device as claimed in claim 25, wherein said plurality of arched strip springs are spaced from one another over the inner surfaces of said first and second plates.

27. (new) The intervertebral spacer device as claimed in claim 22, wherein said first plate includes a threaded hole and the peak is aligned with the threaded hole in said first plate and secured thereto using a threaded fastener.

28. (new) The intervertebral spacer device as claimed in claim 22, wherein said second plate includes threaded holes and the lateral ends are aligned with the respective threaded holes in said second plate and secured thereto using threaded fasteners.

29. (new) The intervertebral spacer device as claimed in claim 22, further comprising a deflectable wire mesh secured over the outer surface of one of said first and second plates.

30. (new) The intervertebral spacer device as claimed in claim 29, wherein the outer surface of the one of said first and second plates is flat and said deflectable wire mesh has a convex surface that is spaced from and overlies the flat outer surface.

31. (new) An intervertebral spacer device comprising:

a first plate having a surface adapted to engage a first vertebral body;

a second plate opposing said first plate and having a surface adapted to engage a second vertebral body;

a plurality of arched strip springs coupling said first and second plates and being adapted for counteracting compressive

loads applied to said first and second plates, wherein each of said arched strip springs has lateral ends attached to said second plate and a peak located between the lateral ends that is attached to said first plate.

32. (new) The intervertebral spacer device as claimed in claim 31, wherein the peaks of said arched strip springs are in contact with an inner surface of said first plate.

33. (new) The intervertebral spacer device as claimed in claim 31, wherein said first and second plates have inner surfaces that confront one another and wherein said plurality of arched strip springs are spaced from one another over the inner surfaces of said first and second plates.

34. (new) The intervertebral spacer device as claimed in claim 31, wherein the peak of each said arched strip spring is equidistant from the lateral ends thereof.

35. (new) The intervertebral spacer device as claimed in claim 31, wherein said first plate has threaded holes and the peaks of said arched strip springs are aligned with the threaded holes and secured thereto using threaded fasteners.

36. (new) The intervertebral spacer device as claimed in claim 31, wherein said second plate has threaded holes and the lateral ends of said arched strip springs are aligned with the threaded holes and secured thereto using threaded fasteners.

37. (new) The intervertebral spacer device as claimed in claim 36, wherein the threaded holes in said second plate comprise pairs of threaded holes and wherein the lateral ends of

each said arched strip spring are aligned with one of the pairs of threaded holes.

38. (new) The intervertebral spacer device as claimed in claim 31, further comprising a deflectable wire mesh secured over the outer surface of one of said first and second plates.

39. (new) The intervertebral spacer device as claimed in claim 38, wherein the outer surface of the one of said first and second plates is flat and said deflectable wire mesh has a convex surface that is spaced from and overlies the flat outer surface.

40. (new) An intervertebral spacer device comprising:

a first plate having an inner surface and an outer surface adapted to engage a first vertebral body;

a second plate having an inner surface that faces the inner surface of said first plate and an outer surface adapted to engage a second vertebral body;

at least one arched strip spring disposed between the inner surfaces of said first and second plates, said at least one arched strip spring has lateral ends that are attached to said second plate and a central portion located equidistant from the lateral ends that is attached to said first plate.

41. (new) The intervertebral spacer device as claimed in claim 40, wherein the central portion of said at least one arched strip spring is in contact with the inner surface of said first plate.

42. (new) The intervertebral spacer device as claimed in claim 40, wherein the central portion of said at least one arched strip spring includes the peak of said at least at least

one arched strip spring, said peak being attached to said first plate.

43. (new) The intervertebral spacer device as claimed in claim 40, wherein said at least one arched strip spring comprises a plurality of arched strip springs.

44. (new) The intervertebral spacer device as claimed in claim 40, further comprising a deflectable wire mesh secured to the outer surface of one of said first and second plates.